3: Skrine G-3 (1922-1924) 1926 All Sinkiang All

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Mother's Song

Kichik kina, qara kuz
Wai balam!
Tili tatliq, shirin suz
Wai balam!
Balam mandin airilde
Wai balam!
Uida yalghuz qalarman,
Wai balam, balam!

Little tiny dark-eyed one
Alas, my child!
Sweet of tongue, O silvery voice
Alas, my child!
My child is taken from me
Alas, my child!
In the house I am left alone,
Alas, my child! my child!

Daughter's Song

Man anamdin airilip
Sunde qanatim qaralip;
Man yiglamae, kim yiglasun
Janim anamdin airilip?

Torn from my mother's side
My wings are broken and bent;
Who may weep, if not I
Torn from my darling mother's side?

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Some days after the actual wedding two parties are given by the bride's family, if well-off, one for the men and the other for the ladies. The following is an account by D. of a wedding party she attended in the women's apartments of a wealthy household at Kashgar. It was by no means the first social function at which she assisted, for she frequently entertained and was entertained by the Kashgari wives of friends or dependants of the Consulate-General. Thanks to the colloquial knowledge of the language which she acquired, she thus became familiar with the feminine side of Turki social life, a subject on which I have found no first-hand information in any of the books I have read about Chinese Turkistan.

"I rode to Y—— K——'s town house on Camel Sulaiman, followed in a Chinese cart by Aisha Khan resplendent in a new dress, a purple velvet jacket embroidered with silver and a black and gold cap. When we arrived a servant conducted us through a narrow passage to the door of the inner court-yard of the house, where the bridegroom's mother and some of her friends and relations came out to receive us. The party had started at about half-past nine in the morning, and as it was now eleven most of the guests had already arrived and the women musicians were seated in a corner waiting to strike up. The room was large and whitewashed, and the guests in their gorgeous dresses sitting all round against the walls on quilts and gaily-coloured rugs made a wonderful blaze of colour.

"Some sat cross-legged but most in the usual Turki position, i.e. sitting on their heels with their knees on the ground. Most of the women were wearing their wedding clothes and ornaments, consisting of velvet gold-embroidered caps of different colours, satin coats trimmed with Indian cloth of gold, bright-hued silk skirts and highly polished black boots like riding-boots. In front of their caps they wore a big

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